

Appl. No.: 10/611,581

Response to Office communication dated: 10/05/2005

Attorney Docket: CREATK/101/US

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An artificial stone product comprising:
a cured thermoset resin;
about 8 percent to about 63 percent (by weight of thermoset resin) of microspheres; and
at least one member selected from dry temper color, dry mortar, dye, pigment, paint, wood ash, mica, stone particles and glass particles, the at least one member being non-homogeneously distributed in the resin;
wherein the artificial stone product has a density of 1.0 grams per cubic centimeter or less and an appearance characteristic of natural stone ~~throughout the extent of the artificial stone product.~~
2. (original) The artificial stone product of claim 1 wherein the cured resin is an polyester resin, and comprising about 22 percent to about 40 percent microspheres (by weight of resin), iron black dry temper color, light buff dry temper color and wood ash.
3. (original) The artificial stone product of claim 1 comprising about 33 percent to about 40 percent microspheres (by weight of resin), iron black dry temper, light buff dry temper and wood ash, wherein the artificial stone material has the appearance of red-brown sandstone.
4. (original) The artificial stone product of claim 1 having a specific gravity of less than 1.
5. (original) The artificial stone product of claim 1 wherein the thermoset resin in a catalyzed state when mixed with the microspheres has a viscosity of about 950×10^6 cps to about 1590×10^6 cps.

6. (withdrawn) A method of producing an artificial stone material, comprising:
 - adding a curing agent to a thermoset resin to form a catalyzed resin mixture;
 - adding about 8 percent to about 63 percent (by weight of catalyzed resin mixture) of microspheres to the catalyzed resin mixture;
 - lightly mixing the microspheres and the catalyzed resin mixture to form a catalyzed base material having a viscosity of about 950×10^6 cps to about 1590×10^6 cps to form a catalyzed base material;
 - adding additives to the catalyzed base material; and
 - working the additives and catalyzed base material to form a catalyzed artificial stone mixture, wherein the additives are non-homogeneously distributed so that the catalyzed artificial stone mixture has randomly oriented veins of additives throughout the catalyzed base material closely approximating the look of natural stone.
7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of providing a working surface at a point of use, wherein the steps of adding a curing agent and adding additives to the catalyzed base material are performed in the vicinity of the point of use.
8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of providing a working surface at a point of use; applying the catalyzed artificial stone mixture to the working surface and curing the catalyzed artificial stone mixture on the working surface.
9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the steps of adding a curing agent and adding additives to the catalyzed base material are performed in the vicinity of a point of use and further comprising the step of sculpting the catalyzed artificial stone mixture into a shape, wherein the shape is maintained while curing.

10. (currently amended) An artificial stone material produced by a process comprising:

providing a point of use;

adding a curing agent to a thermoset resin to form a catalyzed resin mixture in the vicinity of the point of use;

adding about 8 percent to about 63 percent (by weight of catalyzed resin mixture) of microspheres to the catalyzed resin mixture;

slowly mixing the microspheres and the catalyzed resin mixture to form a catalyzed base material having a viscosity of about 950×10^6 cps to about 1590×10^6 cps to form a catalyzed base material;

adding at least one additive ~~additives~~ to the catalyzed base material; and

lightly mixing the additive ~~additives~~ and catalyzed base material to form a catalyzed artificial stone mixture, wherein the additive is ~~additives are~~ non-homogeneously distributed ~~in so that the catalyzed artificial stone mixture and the artificial stone material has randomly oriented veins of additives in the catalyzed base material~~ closely approximates ~~approximating~~ the look of natural stone.

11. (original) The artificial stone product of claim 10 wherein the thermoset resin is an orthophthalate polyester resin, and comprising about 28 percent to about 39 percent microspheres (by weight of resin), iron black dry temper, light buff dry temper and wood ash, wherein the artificial stone material has the appearance of natural grey field stone.

12. (original) The artificial stone product of claim 10 comprising about 33 percent to about 40 percent microspheres (by weight of resin), iron black dry temper, light buff dry temper and wood ash, wherein the artificial stone material has the appearance of red-brown sandstone.

13. (withdrawn) A method of producing an artificial stone façade comprising:
providing a working surface;

adding a curing agent to a thermoset resin to form a catalyzed resin mixture;
adding about 8 percent to about 63 percent (by weight of catalyzed resin mixture) of microspheres to the catalyzed resin mixture;
slowly mixing the microspheres and the catalyzed resin mixture to form a catalyzed base material having a viscosity of about 950×10^6 cps to about 1590×10^6 cps to form a catalyzed base material;
adding additives to the catalyzed base material; and
lightly mixing the additives and catalyzed base material in the vicinity of the working surface to form a catalyzed artificial stone mixture, wherein the additives are non-homogeneously distributed so that the catalyzed artificial stone mixture has randomly oriented veins of additives throughout the extent of the catalyzed base material closely approximating the look of natural stone;
applying the artificial stone mixture to the working surface.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the artificial stone mixture is cured in a mold to form an artificial stone and the step of applying the artificial stone mixture comprises attaching the artificial stone to the working surface.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the artificial stone mixture is cured in a mold to form an artificial stone and the step of applying the artificial stone mixture comprises fastening the artificial stone to the working surface using a mechanical fastener without first predrilling of the artificial stone.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of curing the artificial stone mixture while in contact with the working surface.

17. (new) The artificial stone product of claim 1 wherein the microspheres are substantially homogeneously distributed within the thermoset resin.

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18. (new) The artificial stone material of claim 10 wherein the catalyzed artificial stone mixture has randomly oriented veins of additives.

19. (new) The artificial stone material of claim 10 wherein the catalyzed base material is a substantially homogeneous mixture of microspheres and catalyzed resin.